

In the Claims:

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 44 19 further comprising a rechargeable backup battery of sufficient capacity to enable a device to provide access to the vehicle to start when the a main battery has been discharged.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (New) A device to provide fingerprint access to the interior of an enclosed vehicle, said vehicle having an electrically or electronically activated access control system, comprising:

a) a protective housing mounted on the exterior of said vehicle, said housing including at least an electronic fingerprint sensor;

b) means for connecting said sensor to a power source;

c) means for connecting said fingerprint sensor to an electronic circuit for storing and verifying electronic fingerprint information;

d) means to activate said electronic circuit, switching said circuit from a low-power sleep state to a higher-power active state wherein said sensor can acquire a fingerprint; and

e) means to activate at least one device which allows access control upon verification of electronically stored fingerprint information.

20. (New) A device according to claim 19 wherein said protective housing includes a sealed unit containing at least one electronic fingerprint sensor.

21. (New) A device according to claim 19 further comprising a hinged protective cover and a means to activate said electronic circuit.